United Nations

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T H U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General is "deeply disturbed" by developments that took place in Afghanistan last night; expresses hope that safety of all United Nations personnel would be respected.

+ Secretary-General holds meetings in Beijing with Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Azerbaijan, and Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, for discussions on Cambodia and Nagorno-Karabakh, among other things.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, briefs correspondents on recent trips to Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as to the Horn of Africa, threatened by serious drought; World Food Programme issues alert concerning southern African drought.

+ Progress in destruction of Iraqi chemical weapons assessed by United Nations team.

+ Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, meets various leaders in Sarajevo; returns to Belgrade before going to Zagreb tomorrow, and then to Geneva and Lisbon.

+ Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission completes its fifth session at Headquarters; new lines of demarcation drawn.

+ Secretariat of Economic Comission for Latin America and the Caribbean urged to continue work on defining frame of reference for regional developement, as it concludes ministerial stage of its twenty-fourth session in Santiago, Chile.

+ Disarmament Commission to hold 1992 session at Headquarters, 20 April to 11 May.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is "deeply disturbed" over the developments that took place last night in Afghanistan and expects that the

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safety of all United Nations personnel would be guaranteed and their freedom of movement respected, in and out of the country, according to a statement read out today by Spokesman François Giuliani.

The Secretary-General also said that the political situation in Afghanistan was moving at a very fast pace and that the prevailing situation in Kabul required that the United Nations plan for a political solution "be pursued in earnest by all concerned".

Emphasizing that there was no alternative to a political solution, the Secretary-General said violence would "simply perpetuate the suffering of the Afghan people and the difficulties which have besieged Afghanistan for so long".

On Friday 10 April, the Secretary-General announced that agreement had been reached with the Afghan parties and Governments involved to establish a pre-transitional council composed of impartial personalities to which all powers and all executive authority would be transferred. An Afghan gathering of 1500 representatives of the Afghan population would meet as soon as possible to work out the arrangements for the transition period and an interim mechanism, leading to the establishment of a Government in Kabul through free and fair elections.

The United Nations efforts for a peaceful solution to the 13-year conflict in Afghanistan have been led by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in that country, Benon Sevan, who for several months has held intensive consultations with all segments of the Afghan people.

The Security Council was holding consultations this evening concerning the new developments in Afghanistan.

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On a four-day official visit to China, the Secretary-General met yesterday in Beijing with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Ali Alatas, with whom he discussed the situation in Cambodia and Indonesia's contribution to the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The Foreign Minister invited the Secretary-General to attend the summit of Non-Aligned countries to be held in September in Indonesia.

Today, the Secretary-General received the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Houssein Sadykhov, for a discussion of the situation in that country, especially in Nagorno-Karabakh, about which he expressed grave concern. The Secretary-General reiterated his support for the diplomatic efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

This evening Mr. Boutros-Ghali received the Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Koji Kakizawa, to whom he indicated that he would welcome increased Japanese participation in United Nations

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peace-keeping; it was for Japan to decide what form it should take.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Coordinator for Emergency Assistance, Jan Eliasson, briefed correspondents today on his recent trips on behalf of the Secretary-General to Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as to the Horn of Africa.

On the situation in Bangladesh and Myanmar, Mr. Eliasson said the process of solving the crisis of 200,000 refugees who fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh had begun. He said the Myanmari was willing to take back those who could prove that they had lived in Myanmar.

Mr. Eliasson, who recently returned from visits to the refugee camps in Myanmar and from talks with officials of both countries, said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would be present in the repatriation phase of the refugee operation. He stressed that only half of UNHCR's $27 million appeal had been raised so far, adding that, with the monsoon season approaching, United Nations officials feared a deterioration of an already critical situation in the border area.

Addressing the situation of drought in the Horn of Africa, particularly in southern Sudan and eastern Ethiopia, Mr. Eliasson said the countries in that region had a responsibility for their own population. Without the support of the Governments concerned, he said, relief would not be effective.

Turning to southern Africa, the Under-Secretary-General said that, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), that region was undergoing its most severe drought in many decades. Devastating twelve countries, the drought had destroyed important food crops and led to heavy livestock losses. Mr. Eliasson warned that there would be massive starvation and a huge displacement of people without immediate food aid.

According to the Under-Secretary-General, the World Food Programme (WFP) had issued an alert concerning the southern African drought. The countries most heavily affected were Zambia and Zimbabwe. Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, central and southern Mozambique, the northern part of Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa, Angola and Madagascar had also been affected.

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The second United Nations team overseeing the destruction of the Iraqi chemical weapons completed its work yesterday. The team inspected work in progress at the Mutana State Establishment on the construction of a plant for the destruction of chemical weapons. Work completed so far was found to be generally acceptable, although some alterations were required by the team to improve safety and effectiveness.

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Led by Ron Manley, the team conducted activities in Iraq from 5 to 13 April. It comprised 14 experts and professional support staff from eight countries.

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Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, spent the day in Sarajevo, meeting with various leaders, according to the spokesman of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR). He was to return to Belgrade tonight, before traveling to Zagreb tomorrow.

Upon completion of his visit to Yugoslavia, Mr. Vance will fly to Geneva and Lisbon, before returning to Headquarters.

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The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission completed its fifth session at United Nations Headquarters today, by reviewing the field work of the joint New Zealand-Swedish survey team which provided the basis of the orthophoto mapping of the Iraq-Kuwait border area. These maps have been produced from the control survey and aerial photography taken by the joint team.

Pursuant to earlier decisions, the independent experts of the Commission had also requested the representatives of Iraq and Kuwait to provide them with any and all relevant information on that matter. The independent experts presented to the Commission exhaustive analyses in detailed documentations of all available data for the determination of the location of a number of demarcation points.

In the light of all available information, the Commission was able to draw the line of the boundary between the two countries in a number of locations.

The fifth session of the Demarcation Commission took place from 8 to 16 April. Its next session is scheduled for July 1992.

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The Economic Comission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has recommended to its secretariat that it continue work on defining a frame of reference for regional development, urging that it delves more deeply into the relationship between changing production patterns and social equity.

The Commission took that action yesterday, by adopting a resolution at the conclusion of the ministerial stage of its twenty-fourth session in Santiago, Chile.

In other resolutions adopted, the delegations agreed to strengthen cooperation with Latin American countries and on measures to improve cooperation between Latin American and the Caribbean. With respect to the

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United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), they affirmed that ECLAC is prepared to play a leading role in coordinating regional and subregional activities in accordance with decisions taken at the Earth Summit.

Member States have recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC be held next year in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

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During its next annual session, scheduled to begin at Headquarters on Monday, 20 April, the United Nations Disarmament Commission will consider the role of the Organization in efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons. The 16-day session will also discuss ways to enhance transparency in military matters and the impact of scientific and technological developments on international security.

The Commission is now entering its second year of a reorganization and, under the reform, no subject should be maintained on the Commission's agenda for more than three consecutive years. Therefore, the question of transparency in military matters, which the Commission has been discussing since 1990, will have to be concluded during the upcoming session.

The Disarmament Commission, which is a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly with universal membership, was set up to make specific recommendations on disarmament issues and to follow up on the decisions of the Assembly special sessions on disarmament.

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